

sinners, since it is too large to stand by the side of its companions All are both ungracious to the eye and unpleasmg to the touch, and when opened they disclose pages on which good, though not attractive, type is set with the smallest concession to any visual sensibility

This has to be said, since it explains why readers find the Webbs hard to read, and why, therefore, the net effect of their writings has been less than it would have been, had they been more easily accessible Unhappily, they were not able to repeat, from this point of view, what is the veritable triumph of the Trade Union books that, in them, economic writing is easy and agreeable reading There are passages, in their later works, of a sombre eloquence but these passages hardly offset the general impression above described It is an immense pity, for there is no one of these "unreadable" books that does not contain matter, both of fact and of argument, of insight and interpretation, worth a far greater effort than reading entails They have given, generously, so many gifts through their writing—a fresh angle of approach, a method of study, a real illumination of subject matter, a new standard of disinterested thoroughness—that the greedy recipients want one more the gift of easy enjoyment They have to do without